

## SHORTAGE OF BIRD FOOD CAUSES DESTRUCTION OF PEST THAT KEPT STATE'S FARMERS BUSY SPRAYING

**Tent Caterpillar, Which Denuded Fruit Trees Last Year, Now Prey of Birds That Never Ate One Before — New Diet Results in Heavy Mortality — Insect Food Scarce.**

Farmers and other fruit tree owners in this vicinity aren't likely to be troubled this year as they were last by the tent caterpillar, owing to the fact that birds, like much of the world's population of humans are feeling the shortage of food.

Birds that hitherto despised the tree pest and overlook it when in search of a meal, are now devouring the tent caterpillar. From neighboring country places comes the report that the caterpillars' tents are scarce, and owners of trees expect a respite this summer from spraying and wounding of orchards.

Last year many trees were denuded of foliage by the caterpillars. The result was a poor crop of fruit for those who let the pest get the upper hand, and great damage to the trees.

The new diet, however, is agreeing with many of the birds, according to Warden Frank Novak, of the Bird Sanctuary in Fairfield.

From many parts of the state come reports that birds are dying in great numbers. The same condition exists in Fairfield and vicinity.

"During the last two or three days," said Mr. Novak, "many dead birds have been brought to the sanctuary by persons who had picked them up in the fields, and roads. Eleven oven birds, three or four blackburnian warblers, a pair of orioles and five cuckoos were among them."

"There are probably several reasons why the birds are dying, but there is no doubt the shortage of food is the primary cause. Birds that were not accustomed to eating tent caterpillars, the yellow-bellied sapsucker, the towhee and the catbird have cleared the trees of the pest, and the diet isn't agreeing with them. In many cases it proves fatal."

The oriole is particular. He carefully dissects the caterpillar and selects what he wants.

To the yellow-bellied and black-breasted cuckoos the caterpillar is vile.

"There is no doubt that the birds are very hungry. I believe in coming north so late, as they did this year, they ate insects that had been poisoned by the spraying of trees."

The spraying has killed off a great number of insects on which the birds are accustomed to feed. The cold weather may have interfered too, with hatching of insects on which the birds commonly feed.

Warden Novak reported a scarcity of blue birds this year, and a great increase in the number of orioles and rose-breasted grosbeak.

Persons in this neighborhood of Fairfield report great mortality among the birds, and declare many formerly shy birds have plucked up courage, apparently because of hunger, and now approach stoops of houses and places where persons are standing fearlessly.

The conditions may be exaggerated, Warden Novak believes, because of the increasing interest persons are taking in birds. Conditions such as this have existed in other years, but attracted little attention. He knows the people of Fairfield are becoming more and more interested in birds, because of the manner in which they look out for hungry birds, supplied with food.

Persons who found them brought them to the sanctuary.

**Head of Ams Co. To Conduct Bird Experiment Station**

A novel project for demonstrating to the public the local methods of attracting and increasing wild birds, both song and game species, is being launched by The National Association of Audubon Societies. Charles M. Ams, of New York city, head of the Ams Machine Co., of Bridgeport, Conn., has signed a contract with this association, through T. Gilbert Pearson, its secretary and executive head, donating the use of his land, with generous financial aid, for the purpose of conducting an experiment and demonstration station in applied ornithology.

This work has been placed in charge of the association's department of applied ornithology, under Herbert K. Job. The tract, being made a State Game Preserve, under state protection, the largest of its kind in Connecticut.

An especially interesting phase of this new work is the breeding and attracting of wild ducks. On the tract is a beautiful lake, over a mile long, which is being planted with various varieties of aquatic vegetation on which wild ducks feed. This lake drains through a smaller pond of less size for the breeding of wild ducks under full control. This has been surrounded by a seven-foot vermin-proof fence, and there have been placed in it sixteen to eighteen wire traps, representing nearly all the more valuable wild ducks of North America, including the canvasback, redhead, wood duck, pintail, widgeon, black duck, teal, and others. The flow from the lake brines contains a supply of small fish and other natural food. This collection of wild ducks makes a wonderful and beautiful sight. The glass-fronted aquatic house out in the pond, in which they winter comfortably, swimming in open water with a temperature of fifteen below zero outside, is a model device for cold climates.

The propagation of several kinds of quail, especially the common bobwhite, is another phase of the work, to which other game species will be added. Still another is the attracting of the smaller birds, through planting of many species of trees, shrubs, and other growing plants, foods which birds enjoy, also artificial feed-

ing, water supply by a model bird-bath and pool, and the placing of various nesting devices.

Mr. Ams has provided as headquarters for the association a neat furnished house, where there will be an educational exhibit of specimens, pictures and Audubon publications. Mr. Job will reside there with his family during the summer, and will welcome and instruct all visitors who are interested in birds or game propagation. He will be assisted by Clifford M. Dickinson, of New Britain, Conn., who is employed as assistant. To accommodate visitors and students, Mr. Ams is equipping "Amston Inn," which will be opened to the public by the end of June or first of July. Inquiries may be addressed to H. Rohde, Sup't. Amston, Conn.

Amston is a station on the Air Line Division of the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R., ten miles west of Willimantic. All the above features are within easy walking distance of the railway station. It is a beautiful tract of country, abounding in bird life, the picturesque lake furnishing good fishing and boating, making an ideal location for a summer school of ornithology and game-keeping, into which the project might naturally develop.

## WANT TRIAL IN ANOTHER COUNTY

Hartford, June 9.—Benedict M. Holden sprang a sensation at the opening of the criminal session of the superior court yesterday when he entered a motion that the trial of the case against Mrs. Amy E. Archer-Gilligan be transferred to Litchfield, New London or Fairfield county, on the ground that such extensive newspaper publicity had been given to the case that it would be manifestly unfair to try it here. After reading a number of extracts from newspapers published in this city Mr. Holden said:

"The moment any of the men of the jury hear the least bit of the evidence their minds will go back immediately to what they have read in the newspapers. The only valid reason I can give why the case should not be tried in some other than Hartford county is the insignificant item of expense and that will make but small difference. We must have justice. Gilligan's case argued before a jury, the jury will decide for herself can feel to be unprejudiced."

The motion was vigorously opposed by State Attorney H. M. Alcorn. When court adjourned this afternoon Judge Greene had not given a decision on the motion for change of venue. He granted a motion by Mr. Holden for allowance for fees of experts, fixing the sum at \$500. A motion for assistant counsel for the defense was denied, also a motion to quash the indictment.

## Gen. Edwards to Be Received in Hartford And Accorded Honors

Hartford, June 9.—When Gen. Clarence B. Edwards, commanding the northeastern department headquarters in Boston, comes to Hartford on Wednesday, June 13, he will be accorded much honor and be met by leading members of the state. Here is the program outlined by Major Howard A. Giddings, chairman of the committee in charge of arrangements:

A large dinner at the Hartford club, Wednesday evening, to which will be invited the governor of Connecticut, his staff, and regular army officers on duty here, the Connecticut council of defense, field and commanding officers of the national guard, mayors of principal Connecticut cities, officers of the chambers of commerce, public officials and prominent citizens.

Arrangements will be made to meet the general and such members of his staff as accompany him at the station. Quarters for the party during its stay in Hartford will also be arranged for.

## Commercial Travellers Elect New Officers

Hartford, June 8.—The grand council of New England, United Order of Commercial Travellers of America, today elected the following officers: Grand commander, C. B. Reynolds, Portland, Me.; grand junior counselor, L. M. Graves, Providence; grand past counselor, P. S. Willard, Wethersfield; grand secretary, C. A. Haines, Melrose, Mass.; grand treasurer, Frank L. True, Rutland, Vt.; grand conductor, C. P. Dougherty, Boston; grand page, C. A. Poole, Worcester; grand sentinel, E. F. Stacy, Lynn, Mass.; members of grand executive committee for two years, T. G. Kaubcke, Somerville, Mass.; L. F. Crockett, Everett, Mass.

The grand council adopted a resolution advocating the immediate enactment of legislation providing for the military training of all young men.

## URGE RECRUITS FOR THE MARINE CORPS

Boston, June 9.—Gov. McCall has begun the preparation of a list of names of persons whom he will recommend to the president for appointment on the exemption and drafting boards for Massachusetts.

He has also issued a statement calling attention to the opening of a recruitment campaign for recruits for the marine corps next week.

"The words of the marine corps," he said "spell all that is patriotic, loyal and effective in our military life."

A large portable band stand has been erected in Scollay Square, from which every evening during "marine corps week" a band from Boston forts will give a concert and army and navy officers, city officials and business men will make patriotic addresses.

## GOVERNMENT SAYS THEY MAINTAINED COMMUNICATION WITH OUR ENEMIES



LEFT TO RIGHT, HARRY F. PERISSI, IRVING BONAPARTE, AXEL B. MELCHIOR

Ferdinand Henries Adam, a young German, was arrested in New York. While no charge has been made against him, his detention is regarded as highly important. In his room was found the photograph of a German army captain—his father, he explained. Adam said that he was rejected by the army examiners, left Germany in February, 1915, and shipped for Mexico from a Spanish port. The vessel was held up by a British cruiser and Adam was interned at Halifax seven months. When released he came to the United States. He told the police he made several trips to Mexico.

Herman Frenckle, forty-one years old, of Brooklyn, an electrical engineer, was arrested and charged with violating the federal postal laws.

The three men shown in the picture were held in heavy ball on a charge of conspiring to send mail to Europe through other than the authorized channels. They are, from left to right, Harry F. Perissi, thirty-two, of Far Rockaway, whose bond was made \$25,000; Irving Bonaparte, thirty-two, of 944 Fox street, Bronx, bail \$20,000; and Axel B. Melchior, thirty-two, of 164 East 122d street, bail \$25,000. Perissi and Bonaparte are employees of the Allgemeine Elektricitäts-Gesellschaft, of 17 Battery place. Melchior keeps a saloon near the water front in Brooklyn.

The government alleges they sent mail matter to and from Germany by having it carried to Norway by men of the crews of the Norwegian-American line steamships Bergenford and Kristianstad.

Matter from Germany was brought here and mailed regularly, and mail from South America and Mexico was sent here through the regular channels and turned over to the crews of the two ships.

Adam is employed by L. E. Frorup, a dealer in carbons at 323 Greenwich street, and a business relationship existed between him and Perissi and Bonaparte. It is said Adam was employed to assemble and pack wireless equipment sent to Mexico. The parts were obtained from different manufacturers.

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## OSTEND IS CRIPPLED AS A BASE BY HEAVY PROJECTILE FIRE FROM BRITISH MONITORS, PHOTOS SHOW

London, June 9.—A series of photographic plates of the bombardment of Ostend which have arrived in London afford a remarkable example of the development of photographic observation and record by aeroplanes. They show in undeniable form that the British bombardment of Ostend last Tuesday was the most successful of its kind yet accomplished, ensuring that Ostend will be crippled as a useful German base for weeks, if not permanently.

There are several series of these Ostend plates in the little photographic record room of the admiralty building and they must be seen together to illustrate the result of the dynamite work. The first group were taken before the bombardment and show the town in panoramic squares. With a small reading glass it is easy even for an untrained eye to distinguish the essential features of docks, factories and harbor works in their normal condition and to trace railroad tracks, streets and store yards.

The section around the docks, embracing that part of the town that is of military importance, is a mass of low sheds with broad flat roofs, and is quite distinct from the residence section, which stretches out in a long vista of little roofs and tiny gardens.

A second group of plates shows Ostend after the bombardment. At first sight the pictures are disappointing. Taken from aeroplanes a mile or more above the town, the pictures show no great general devastation. The work a hundred or two heavy projectiles, such as are used by the British monitors, does not impress itself heavily on a landscape like the work of an earthquake. There are, of course, no large general changes in the outline of the town, but when one gets down to careful comparisons with the

pictures taken before the bombardment there are some striking changes here and there which grow in importance as they are studied under a magnifying glass.

First of all there is the harbor. One is immediately struck by a slight change in the appearance of the great lock gates, on which all the activity of the harbor depends. These gates are 100 feet long and 20 feet high, and they seem somehow to have lost a little of their rectilinear character over night. The magnifying glass reveals some of the reasons for this change. The breaking down of the locks prevents the retention of water in the basin and the canals which lead to the locks. The entire port machinery. Equally effective in crippling the harbor is a hit on the operating machinery, jamming the locks so that ingress or egress is impossible until elaborate repairs are made.

The plates taken the day before the bombardment show a number of ships at anchor in the harbor or tied up in the inner basin. In the succeeding plates some of the ships have disappeared and others apparently are half submerged. The long wharf looks like a caricature of its former self, and two or three buildings in the dockyards, whose usefulness was increased by the early pictures by the presence of new additions or alterations, have suffered severely.

The pictures confirm the statement in the official announcement that more than half of the buildings in the factory section of the town have been either destroyed or much damaged. It is easy to see that there may have been a heavy loss of life, although the residential section apparently was untouched. Some of the ruined factories necessarily operate at night and day and many are employed at night on the shipping dock.

## PITCAIRN ISLANDERS HAPPY AS CHRISTMAS SHIP REACHES THEM LOADED WITH GIFTS FROM U. S.

Col. Robert G. Moran, manager of United States & Australasia Steamship Co., has received a long letter from Captain G. A. Cockell of the steamship Australplains that took a cargo of relief supplies to the islanders of Pitcairn.

Miss Emily McCoy, a nurse of this city, to the inhabitants of lonely Pitcairn Island in the South Pacific, over which her family rules. Capt. Cockell confirms her news that the Australplains arrived at Pitcairn on April 20. The voyage was uneventful. Shortly after the Australplains left New York there were reports that a German submarine or raider was then operating in the South Pacific, but Capt. Cockell and his crew saw or heard nothing of it.

The Pitcairners Captain Cockell found in a state of grief over the loss of the schooner Messenger which was completed by the islanders in January last and which set sail with Missionary Adams, the religious adviser of the community, and seven others for Tahiti, 1,300 miles distant. Twenty-four hours after the Messenger left the island, a severe storm passed over the region and nothing having been heard from the schooner and its occupants up to the time the Australplains arrived the islanders had given up hope that the men were alive.

One of the important points in Captain Cockell's letter is that of the passage close to the island of a steamer southward bound. The Pitcairners signalled to it and several men of the colony put out in boats and had a talk with the captain. The latter gave them copies of New York papers containing the news of the Australplains' arrangement to carry mail to Pitcairn.

Captain Cockell describes in characteristic fashion the delight of the Pitcairners upon their receiving the sun-dry articles he took them. The women were especially pleased. The women were especially pleased. The women were especially pleased.

The Australplains was at Pitcairn about two hours and Captain Cockell had not very much time to make extensive observations.

## HONOR FOUNDER OF MODERN RUSSIA

In the Russian calendar the ninth of June is a date of profound and historic importance, for it marks the anniversary of the birth in 1872 of Peter Alexeevitch, usually styled Peter the Great, who was the creator of modern Russia, the father of such civilization as Russia may be said to possess, and the founder of St. Petersburg which has now been changed to Petrograd.

Peter, who was the first czar of Muscovy to assume the title of Emperor. All students of history are familiar with the career of Peter the statesman and soldier, who, disguised as a workman, toiled in the Amsterdam shipyard in order that he might induce the art of shipbuilding among the people; who, inspired by his tutor, Lefort, a Genoese, determined to introduce the arts and sciences of civilization into Russia, and visited Holland, England and Germany, keenly observing and learning all that he could of trade, manufactures, commerce and arts, and who introduced this heaven of civilization into a land which had been plunged into the darkest barbarism. The student also knows that the Father of His country, while retaining others, neglected to reform himself, an omission not peculiar to Peter—and remained to the last, a coarse and brutal savage and tyrant, addicted to the meanest vices, and finding the greatest joy in torturing his enemies. Often he lapsed off ten or twenty heads in succession, and was immensely proud of his horrid dexterity with the sword.

Of Peter the lover, less has been written, yet this cruel barbarism was not without romantic proclivities. During the early period of his reign, he jointly occupied the Muscovite throne with his brother, Ivan V., a weak and little person, but after seven years of intrigue, Peter ruled alone. His first wife, Eudoxia, was a refined woman of noble birth, but Peter soon tired of

her and imposed her in a nunnery. Ill-clad and ill-fed she spent twenty-four years of this way of life. One of the most pitiful love letters ever written, was addressed by Eudoxia to Major Glebof, a soldier who, by his kindness, had inspired passion in the breast of the luckless ex-czarina. To her she wrote:

"Come to me. Without thee I shall die. Send me but a crust of bread that thou has bitten with thy teeth, or the wretchedest thou has often worn, that I may have something to bring me near thee."

In 1763 Peter privately married Catherine, a girl of peasant birth, who had been a courtesan, and who was the spouse of a Swedish dragoon when Peter first came. Amorous eyes upon her, he was infatuated with her. She was of Livonian birth, and possessed a voluptuous figure and was an expert at ironing shirts. In one of his love letters to Catherine, while he was away on a campaign, Peter sighed: "I am dull without you—and there is nobody to take care of my shirts."

When Peter was away, fighting the battle of Poltava, he preserved in his pocket Catherine's amusements with her courtiers. One of these affairs came to the attention of Peter, and he chopped off the head of the guilty man and exposed it to the public view on a scaffold in the palace yard. Later Peter had the decapitated head preserved in spirits and placed in a bottle in the Empress' apartments, but this horrid souvenir of her love affair did not daunt Catherine, who remained faithful and faithful to the last. When Peter died, she was very young, being only 25, the former peasant girl ascended the throne as Empress Catherine I, and ruled as autocrat of all the Russians until her death in 1797.

Feeling that there are too many automobiles on the road for public safety, a determined effort is being made every Sunday to smash up and get rid of a lot of them.

Farmer Want Ads. One Cent a

## BEST GERMANY CAN EXPECT IS MEDIUM CROPS

Grain Seized In Rumania Diverted From Austro-Hungary

Copenhagen, June 9.—The rapid dwindling of German grain stocks under the drain imposed by the supplementary bread allowances to compensate for missing potatoes was the cause of the recently hastily summoned conference of representatives of the Central powers in Berlin. Officials of the German food department, supported by energetic representations from the military and diplomatic authorities, won the grant of an additional proportion for Germany of the grain stocks captured in Rumania.

This agreement is at the cost of the Austro-Hungarian, Bulgarian and Turkish allotments and, according to a Berlin announcement, will suffice to carry the German population through until the harvest. The transportation difficulties of course remain to be solved.

The German authorities are conducting a vigorous publicity campaign to convince the people that all is well with the coming harvest and that present food difficulties will disappear as soon as the new crop is available. Articles describing the grain crop prospects as without a shadow appear in the various papers, but the same assertions were made before the harvest of 1915, when the grain crop was a bad failure, and before that of 1916, which, despite optimistic estimates, turned out to be barely 25 per cent above the preceding year.

A hint of somewhat different possibilities is given in a paragraph that slipped into a glowing account of crop prospects in the weekly Woche. This paragraph says:

"If all conditions continue favorable Germany can hope for barely a medium harvest, owing to the lack of fertilizers, particularly nitrates."

The fruit harvest, according to experts, will also be only medium.

## CHILD SCALDED TO DEATH; FALLS INTO TUB OF HOT WATER

New Britain, June 9.—Clara Merugliano, four years old, was scalded to death at her parents' home in Plainville yesterday. The child fell into a tub of boiling water.

## Registrations Less Than Census Estimate

Washington, June 9.—Estimates based on complete returns from seven States and the District of Columbia indicated a registration of about 4 per cent, less than census estimates of eligibles. About half of the men registered stated conditions on which exemption might, but not necessarily will, be based.

FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SEEDS JOHN RECK & SON

## WHEAT CROPS TO FAR EXCEED FIRST ESTIMATE

Washington, June 9.—The prospective wheat crop of the United States this year was forecast yesterday by the department of agriculture at 656,000,000 bushels, combining a revised estimate of the badly damaged winter wheat crop and the first estimate of the new spring wheat crop, based on June 1 conditions. That compares with 784,000,000 bushels harvested last year and 806,000,000 bushels, the average crop for 1911-15.

Improved weather conditions during May increased prospects of winter wheat and indicated a crop at 373,000,000 bushels. The crop began this spring under adverse conditions, 12,437,000 acres having to be abandoned because of the severe winter and other causes. April 1 conditions indicated a production of 430,000,000 bushels but during that month growing conditions were so poor that the May 1 forecast was reduced to 366,118,000 bushels.

The increased spring wheat area, placed at 19,038,000 acres and the good start of this crop under excellent growing conditions, indicate a production of 283,000,000 bushels, compared with 153,142,000 bushels last year, 351,554,000 bushels in 1915, and 571,000 bushels the average for the preceding five years.

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